

Page 56, line 5, please italicize "Bordetella pertussis";
Page 56, line 6, please italicize "S. suis";
Page 56, lines 10-11, please italicize "Bordetella pertussis";
Page 56, line 14, please italicize "E. coli";
Page 56, line 15, please italicize "S. suis";
Page 56, line 23, please replace "labelled" with -labeled-;
Page 56, line 28, please italicize "S. suis";
Page 56, line 30, please italicize "S. suis";
NE
Page 57, please bold the text in line 1;
Page 57, line 3, please italicize "S. suis";
Page 57, line 4, please insert a comma after "purpose";
Page 57, lines 7-8, please italicize "S. suis";
Page 57, line 11, please replace "Fig. 12B" with -FIG. 12, part B-;
Page 57, line 12, please replace "Fig. 12A" with -FIG. 12, part A-;
Page 57, line 14, please italicize "S. suis";

IN THE CLAIMS:

3. (Amended) The isolated or recombinant nucleic acid of claim 1 [or claim 2], wherein said isolated or recombinant nucleic acid is hybridized to a second nucleic acid encoding a gene derived from a *Streptococcus suis* serotype 1, 2, or 9 capsular gene cluster.

7. (Amended) A nucleic acid probe or primer derived from the isolated or recombinant nucleic acid of [any one of claims 1 to 6] ~~claim 1~~, wherein said nucleic acid probe or primer allows species or serotype specific detection of *Streptococcus suis*.

9. (Amended) A diagnostic test kit comprising the nucleic acid probe or primer of claim 7 [or claim 8].

Q3

10. (Amended) A protein or fragment thereof encoded by the isolated or recombinant nucleic acid of [any one of claims 1 to 6]claim 1.

Q4

18. (Amended) A vaccine comprising the recombinant *Streptococcus suis* mutant of claim 15 [or the microorganism of claim 16 or claim 17].

Q5

21. (Amended) The vaccine of claim 19 [or claim 20], wherein said *Streptococcus* mutant deficient in capsular expression is capable of surviving in an immune-competent host.

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23. (Amended) The vaccine of [any one of claims 19 to 22]claim 19, wherein said *Streptococcus* mutant deficient in capsular expression expresses a *Streptococcus* virulence factor or antigenic determinant.

24. (Amended) The vaccine of [any of claims 19 to 23]claim 19, wherein said *Streptococcus* mutant deficient in capsular expression expresses a *non-Streptococcus* protein.

26. (Amended) A method for controlling or eradicating a *Streptococcal* disease in a population, said method comprising:

vaccinating subjects in said population with the vaccine of [any one of claims 18 to 25]claim
18.

27. (Amended) A method for controlling or eradicating a *Streptococcal* disease, said method comprising:

testing for the presence of encapsulated *Streptococcal* strains in a sample collected from at least one subject in a population partly or wholly vaccinated with a vaccine of [any one of claims 18 to 25]claim 19.

28. (Amended) A method for controlling or eradicating a *Streptococcal* disease

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comprising testing for the presence of capsule-specific antibodies directed against Streptococcal strains in a sample collected from at least one subject in a population partly or wholly vaccinated with a vaccine of [any one of claims 18 to 25]claim 19.

29. (Amended) A method for controlling or eradicating a Streptococcal disease in a population comprising:
selecting subjects in said population vaccinated with a vaccine according to [any one of claims 18 to 25]claim 19; and
testing a sample collected from at least one subject in said population for the presence of encapsulated Streptococcal strains and/or for the presence of capsule-specific antibodies directed against Streptococcal strains.

Please add the following new claims:

30. The nucleic acid of claim 2, wherein said serotype-specific central region encodes at least one enzyme or fragment thereof involved in polysaccharide biosynthesis.

31. A vaccine comprising the microorganism of claim 16.

32. The vaccine of claim 20, wherein said recombinant Streptococcus mutant has been produced by homologous recombination.

33. The vaccine of claim 21, wherein said mutant is capable of surviving at least at least 8-10 days in said host.

Remarks

The application is to be amended without prejudice or disclaimer as previously set forth and should not be viewed as narrowing or further limiting the claims. The amendments are sought to